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STATINTL

Jack Anderson: A funny story

FBI probes policy leak

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The Justice Department has directed the FBI to investigate who leaked highly embarrassing classified documents detailing White House policy meetings on the India-Pakistan war to columnist Jack Anderson, administration sources said today.

A Justice Department spokesman ended several days of "no comment" by admitting for the first time that the matter was "under investigation."

Earlier reports were that a search for the source of the leak was being conducted only within each of the departments which had officials at the secret meetings. Government sources said the probe now has moved to a higher level with the calling in of the FBI and also the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department, which would handle any prosecution.

NO MUZZLE

But the government has not tried to suppress further publication of the Anderson columns, as it did after initial publication of the Pentagon papers last year.

The Washington Post today said Mr. Anderson gave it the full texts of three of the secret documents. The Post, which carries Mr. Anderson's column, said the three documents were on the letterhead of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and of Warren G. Nutter, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs.

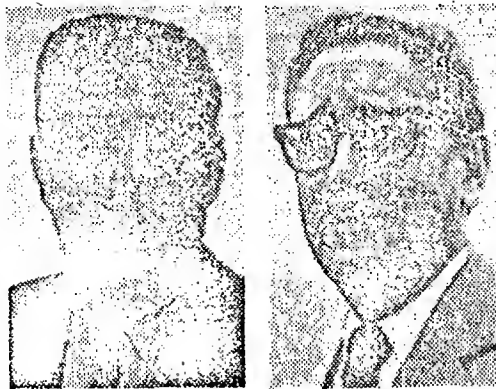
The Post quoted Mr. Anderson as saying his sources for the papers hold high positions in the Nixon administration.

"If the sources were identified," the Post quoted Mr. Anderson, "it would embarrass the administration more than it would me. It would make a very funny story."

Mr. Anderson said the documents show that, contrary to the administration's professions of strict neutrality, Mr. Nixon sided strongly with the military dictatorship in West Pakistan against the world's largest democracy in India.

'GETTING HELL'

Dr. Henry Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's chief adviser on national security, was quoted as saying in a Dec. 3 strategy session, "I am getting



Jack Anderson, left, and Henry Kissinger.

hell every half hour from the President that we are not being tough enough on India."

Mr. Anderson said the documents disclose that Dr. Kissinger sought to get around the ban on U.S. arms shipments to Pakistan by having them sneak in thru Jordan or Saudi Arabia.

"Dr. Kissinger asked whether we have the right to authorize Jordan or Saudi Arabia to transfer military equipment to Pakistan," Mr. Anderson quoted from the Dec. 6 minutes. "Mr. (Christopher) Van Hollen (State Department Asia expert) stated that the United States cannot permit a third country to transfer arms which we have provided them when we, ourselves, do not authorize the sale direct to the ultimate recipient."

'OUT OF CONTEXT'

Dr. Kissinger said yesterday in San Clemente, Calif., that Mr. Anderson quoted "out of context" from the documents, but refused to elaborate. In response, Mr. Anderson told Scripps-Howard newspapers he would make the full memoranda available to the public.

Mr. Anderson wrote that a cable from Kenneth Keating, U.S. ambassador to India, warned that "any action other than rejection (of the plan to ship planes to Pakistan by way of Jordan) would pose enormous further difficulties in Indo-U.S. relations."

The documents indicated the United States was considering sending eight F104s via Jordan to resupply the Pakistan air force, which

had been crippled by initial Indian attacks. The war was over in two weeks, before any such shipment was made. Mr. Anderson said the documents indicate that a final decision had not been reached.

Mr. Anderson said the President overrode the advice of State Department senior officials to appeal to the West Pakistan government to stop persecuting Bengalis in East Pakistan, and to remain neutral between West Pakistan and India. One of those participating in the secret meetings wrote this report, according to Mr. Anderson:

Dr. Kissinger said that we are not trying to be even-handed. The President does not want to be even-handed. The President believes that India is the attacker. . . .

"Dr. Kissinger said that we cannot afford to ease India's state of mind. 'The Lady' (Mrs. Indira Gandhi, India's prime minister) is cold-blooded and tough and will not turn into a Soviet satellite merely because of pique. We should not ease her mind. He invited anyone who objected to this approach to take his case to the President."

STATE LEAK

Speculation here is that the leak came from the State Department, which has had its ego bruised lately by Dr. Kissinger's emergence as the dominant foreign policy figure in the administration. Mr. Anderson refused to pinpoint his source.

The minutes described meetings in early December of the Special Action Group, comprised of State, Defense, CIA, and White House officials. The papers were variously classified, including "secret sensitive." Mr. Anderson said he has received two calls from "friends" in the government warning that he could be indicted.

Government officials said that altho classifications were violated, the substance of the reports indicates they would not be covered by laws against sabotage or espionage.

When several newspapers published excerpts of the secret Pentagon papers last year, Atty. Gen. John Mitchell asked the courts to suppress further publication. His request was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Following an FBI investigation, the government is prosecuting Daniel Ellsberg for having leaked the papers to the press.